

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
VACCINE SOCIETY
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

**PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF THE
SOCIETY.**

PHILADELPHIA:

1813.

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA VACCINE SOCIETY.

IN the spring of 1809, a number of persons, affected with the sufferings of the Poor, agreed to form a society, for extending to them the benefits of Vaccination. They divided themselves into Committees, who sought out the objects of their Association in the City, Southwark and Northern Liberties; and persuaded them to submit to Vaccination; which was performed at their dwellings by physicians appointed by the Society. This first effort proving successful, was repeated in the following year with like effect.

The way being thus opened, the Society employed persons to collect the names of such as were willing to receive the benefits of the Institution. These names were, as before, reported to the physicians for Vaccination.

In this manner the business has been conducted for four years; and in order to shew the effect produced, the following statement is given :

In 1809	-	1102	Persons were successfully
1810	-	955	vaccinated.
1811	-	1277	
1812	-	1255	

Total 4589.

By the annual official reports of the Board of Health, it appears—That there died of Small-pox, in the city of Philadelphia, the Northern Liberties, and district of Southwark,

In 1807	-	-	-	-	32 Persons
1808	-	-	-	-	145
1809	-	-	-	-	101
1810	-	-	-	-	140
1811	-	-	-	-	117
1812	-	-	-	-	none

Total 535

The mode, adopted by the society, of seeking for the poor at their own houses, has appeared to be

absolutely requisite, in order to dispense the benefits of Vaccination amongst them. It is well known, by those who have been occupied in giving assistance to this class of the community, that the means of affording them relief must be made very easy and within their reach.

The Society, having made the successful experiment for several years, with their present limited resources, now offer, to their Fellow-citizens at large, the following Plan of an Association for extending the Benefits of Vaccination; hoping that the important Results, noticed in the official Reports of the Board of Health, will prove satisfactory; and induce the benevolent to co-operate with them in more effectually applying the means, graciously made known by a merciful Providence, of lessening human misery, and avoiding the sufferings and mortality consequent on one of the most loathsome and dangerous diseases to which mankind have been incident.

I. THE members shall consist of such persons, as pay annually to the treasurer of the society, the sum of five dollars, to be due on the first day of the first month.

II. The society shall meet on the first fourth day of the first month in every year. At this meeting they shall elect a clerk, who may call special meetings, when requested in writing by seven members. They shall also choose twelve managers,

whose business it shall be to appoint one or more collectors of cases, physicians, and a Treasurer—also generally to regulate all the affairs of the institution.

III. Five managers shall be a sufficient number to transact business. They shall make an annual report, at the meeting in the first month, of the persons vaccinated, and of the receipts and expenditures of monies during the last year.

IV. The collector or collectors of cases shall call on such persons as may be deemed suitable objects for vaccination, and report them to the physicians; a regular account whereof shall be kept for the inspection of the managers; and for these services such compensation shall be allowed, as the board of managers may judge proper.

V. The business of the physicians shall be to go to the houses of the patients and vaccinate them. They are to keep an account of the names, ages, places of abode and occupations of the persons vaccinated; and if the patient be a minor, of the parent or guardian, with the events; and report the same to the managers, who shall allow them a proper compensation for their services.

VI. The treasurer shall receive all annual contributions, donations and legacies, and pay the same to orders drawn by direction of the society, or of the board of managers.

VII. Any person, wishing to withdraw from the society, must give three months notice to the treasurer, previously to the first day of the year.

VIII. No alteration to this constitution shall be made, unless three months notice thereof is given, at a meeting of the society.

Published by order and on behalf of the society.

THOMAS WISTAR.

SAMUEL BETTLE.

PHILIP GARRETT.

ELLIS FARNALL.

SAMUEL P. GRIFFITTS.

DAVID JONES.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

JOSEPH PARRISH.

WILLIAM PENROSE.

CHARLES ALLEN.

JOHN PAUL.

JOSEPH M. PAUL.

Philadelphia, 11th Mo. 15th, 1813.

Med. Hist.

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